

NOTICE OF DECISION UNDER REGULATION 32 FILM POSTERS

VIDEO SLICK

TO: The Film and Video Labelling Body Inc.
PO Box 2627
Ponsonby
Auckland

Pursuant to regulation 32 of the Films, Videos, and Publications Classification Regulations 1994 the film poster entitled:

The Big-Ass She-Male Adventure

is **Not Approved.**

if approval refused, the reasons for the decision:

The video slick entitled *The Big-Ass She-Male Adventure* is not approved, due to the extent and degree to which transgendered females are presented in a degrading manner. The manner in which transgendered females are presented is likely to contribute to or support negative attitudes toward them, particularly with regard to matters of sex. The video slick would likely be classified as objectionable if it were to be submitted for a classification decision.

Several aspects of the slick combine to affect this determination. The title of the slick refers most directly to the main subjects of the slick and the associated video recording, transgendered females, with the term 'she-male'. This colloquial term has derogatory connotations, particularly coupled with the 'big-ass' descriptor which reduces the transgendered participants to their buttocks as a focus of sexual interest. The style of the title emphasises this physical characteristic of the females, and on the front portion is directly positioned below a row of female buttocks through the centre of the slick. Females' buttocks are again emphasised in the images on the spine. Overall, the slick is a barrage of images relating to a theme presenting transgendered females as sexual curiosities for the titillation of the reader. This effect is generated by the style of the images, which are completely congruent with images of women intending to predominantly appeal to heterosexual male consumers, the incredulous tone of 'dicks?!', and the invitation to the viewer to 'check [the video recording] out' if they are 'curious'. As an individual element of the slick, the depiction of a transgendered female fellating another while she is seated on a toilet presents as degrading and demeaning sexual conduct, intensified somewhat by the overall manner of the slick.

The New Zealand Bill of Rights Act 1990 (the NZBR Act) affirms the rights and freedoms of expression but allows that such freedom may be subject to reasonable limits prescribed by law. Having given consideration to the relevant provisions of the NZBR Act, to the extent and degree to which and manner in which the video slick degrades transgendered females, and the injury to the public good likely to result from the availability of the publication, the Classification Office determines that the video slick would likely be classified as objectionable if it were to be submitted for a decision on its classification. The Classification Office considers that such a limit on the availability of the publication is reasonable and prescribed by law.

.....

Date: 09 November 1998

For the Classification Office (signed):

OFLC Ref: 9801030